

# BOLD ALLIGATOR 2014



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# Welcome to Bold Alligator 2014!

Seapower plays a key role in preserving the American way of life by maintaining safe, global commerce operations across the seas. The global system of connected economies depends on the freedom of movement across the maritime domain, as it is the principal means for the transit of 90% of the world's commerce by weight and volume. With such a global interconnection of economies, shocks to the system caused by regional conflicts, terrorist attacks, natural disasters, and war all have potential global impact. Therefore, U.S. vital interests are best served by having forward-positioned maritime forces around the globe, postured to prevent, deter, limit, and localize conflicts, wars, and disruptions to the global system that the international community relies upon.

The Bold Alligator exercise series demonstrates how amphibious forces are critical to maintaining the maritime flexibility required to preserve vital national interests. The exercise showcases the advantages of seabasing and the Navy and Marine Corps' full range of amphibious operations. After more than 13 years of armed conflict, the Navy-Marine Corps team continues to work hard to revitalize, refine, and strengthen fundamental amphibious competencies and reinforce the Navy and Marine Corps roles as "fighters from the sea."

In previous years, Bold Alligator tested the ability of the Navy-Marine Corps and our coalition partners' team to conduct a full-scale amphibious landing in a medium-threat environment. Bold Alligator 2014 will exercise the ability to conduct crisis response operations in a complex maritime environment. The capabilities that allow the amphibious force to conduct forcible entry are the same capabilities that make it the force of choice for crisis response and building partnerships.

Global partnerships are also critical to establishing a resilient peace worldwide. Navy, Marines, and Coast Guard provide global capabilities supporting national interests and are a natural medium for forging and maintaining international relationships. Bold Alligator provides a premium venue to improving and understanding operational proficiencies between U.S. naval amphibious forces, coalition, North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), allied, and partner nations' forces. Improving Navy-Marine Corps amphibious core competencies alongside coalition, NATO, allied, and partner nations is a necessary investment in the current and future readiness of our forces.

Due to the long-standing and continual relationship with our international partners, coalition participation is incorporated to provide additional resources and capabilities. Within the context of the 21st century maritime environment, Bold Alligator scenarios are realistic and relevant to current operations. Crisis response operations like Tomadachi in Japan and Unified Response in Haiti illustrate the need for rapid, reliable, and ready amphibious forces provided by the Navy-Marine Corps team and our coalition partners.

Bold Alligator 14 truly is rapid response for today's crises.

## **Admiral Bill Gortney**

### **Commander, U.S. Fleet Forces Command**

Adm. Gortney graduated from Elon College in North Carolina, earning a Bachelor of Arts in History and Political Science in 1977. He entered the Navy as an aviation officer candidate, received his commission in the United States Naval Reserve in September 1977, and earned his wings of gold in December 1978.

Gortney commanded on three occasions in the U.S. Central Command area of operations supporting Maritime Security Operations and combat operations for Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom (OIF). These include U.S. Naval Central Command, U.S. 5th Fleet, Combined Maritime Forces in Naval Support Activity (NSA) Bahrain, 2008-2010; Carrier Strike Group 10, onboard USS Harry S. Truman (CVN 75), 2007-2008; and Carrier Air Wing 7, onboard USS John F. Kennedy (CV 67), 2002-2003. Additional command tours include Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 106, the East Coast FA-18 Fleet Replacement Squadron, Naval Air Station (NAS) Cecil Field, Fla., 1996-1997; and VFA-15, 1994-1995, onboard USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN 71).

Fleet assignments include Attack (VA) Squadron 82, 1981-1984, onboard USS Nimitz (CVN 68); VFA-87, 1988-1990, onboard USS Theodore Roosevelt; Executive Officer, VFA-132, 1991-1992, onboard USS Forrestal (CV 59); executive officer, VFA-15, 1992-1994, onboard USS Theodore Roosevelt; and deputy commander, Carrier Air Wing Seven, onboard USS Dwight D. Eisenhower (CVN 69).

Overseas assignments include deputy for Current Operations, Joint Task Force Southwest Asia, Eskan Village, Saudi Arabia, 1999; chief, Naval and Amphibious Liaison Element to the Combined Forces Air Component Commander, U.S. Central Command, for the opening months of OIF at Prince Sultan Air Base, Saudi Arabia; and chief of staff, Commander U.S. Naval Forces Central Command, U.S. 5th Fleet in NSA Bahrain, 2003-2004.

Shore assignments include Training Squadron (VT) 26, NAS Beeville, Texas, 1978-1980; VFA-125, NAS Lemoore, Calif., 1984-1988; aide and flag lieutenant to the Assistant Chief of Naval Operations (Air Warfare), Washington D.C., 1990-1991; Joint Staff, J-33 Joint Operations Department U.S. Central Command Division, 1998-1999. He is a 1996 graduate of the Naval War College, earning a Master of Arts in National Security and Strategic Studies. His first flag tour was as the deputy chief of Staff for Global Force Management and Joint Operations, Fleet Forces Command, Norfolk, Va., 2004-2006. His last assignment was as director, Joint Staff, 2010-2012.

Gortney has flown more than 5,360 mishap-free flight hours and 1,265 carrier-arrested landings, primarily in the A-7E Corsair II and the FA-18 Hornet. He is authorized to wear the Defense Distinguished Service Medal, Navy Distinguished Service Medal, Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit (four awards), Bronze Star, Defense Meritorious Service Medal (two awards), Meritorious Service Medal (three awards), Air Medal (three awards: Gold Numeral One, two Strike/Flight), Joint Service Commendation Medal (three awards), Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, Sea Service Ribbon (8 awards), and the Overseas Service Ribbon (2 awards).



## **Lieutenant General Robert B. Neller** **Commander,** **Marine Forces Command**

Lt. Gen. Neller assumed duties as Commander, U.S. Marine Corps Forces Command on July 1, 2014. He graduated from the University of Virginia and was commissioned via the Platoon Leaders Class program in May 1975.

Neller's assignments in the operating forces include: Rifle and Weapons Platoon Leader and Company Commander with Company L, 3d Battalion, 4th Marines, 3d Marine Division, Commanding Officer, Company A, 1st Battalion, 1st Marines, 3d Light Armored Infantry Battalion and 6th Marine Regiment. While with 3d LAI he participated in Operation "Restore Hope" in Somalia. He served as the commanding officer of Marine Corps Security Force Company, Panama, where he participated in Operations "Just Cause" and "Promote Liberty". Additionally, he served as Executive Officer, 7th Marine Regiment, G-3, II Marine Expeditionary Force and G-3, 2nd Marine Division.

Other assignments include recruit series officer, aide-de-camp and as Director of Special Training Division MCRD San Diego, CA. Neller served as Student Company Executive Officer and Tactics Instructor at The Basic School, Quantico, VA, and in Special Projects Directorate HQMC. Additionally, he served as a Staff Officer in the Policy Division of the Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE) in Casteau, Belgium.

As a general officer, he has served as the Assistant Division Commander of 2d Marine Division; the Director, Operations Division, Plans, Policies (PP&O) HQMC; as the Deputy Commanding General (Operations), I Marine Expeditionary Force (Forward) during OIF 05-07, and as the Assistant Division Commander for 1st Marine Division. Neller commanded 3rd Marine Division and served as President, Marine Corps University. From January 2011 to July 2012, he served as Director for Operations, J3, The Joint Staff, Washington, D.C.

Neller is a graduate of The Basic School, Advanced Armor Officer Course, Marine Command and Staff College, NATO Defense College, and the Armed Forces Staff College. He holds a BA in History and Speech Communication from the University of Virginia and a MA in Human Resource Management from Pepperdine University.



## **Vice Admiral Nora W. Tyson** **Deputy Commander,** **U.S. Fleet Forces Command**

Vice Adm. Tyson graduated from Vanderbilt University and received her commission from Officer Candidate School in Newport, R.I. She earned her wings as a naval flight officer in 1983 and reported to Fleet Air Reconnaissance Squadron (VQ4), where she ultimately served three tours at Naval Air Station (NAS) Patuxent River, Md., and Tinker Air Force Base, Okla., including one as commanding officer.



Tyson also commanded the amphibious assault ship, USS Bataan (LHD 5), leading the Navy's contributions to disaster relief efforts on the U.S. Gulf Coast in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, and deploying twice to the Persian Gulf in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Her other commands include Commander, Task Force 73/Commander, Logistics Group Western Pacific based in Singapore and, most recently, Commander, Carrier Strike Group Two, where she led the USS George H.W. Bush Strike Group on its maiden deployment in support of operations in both 6th and 5th Fleet areas of responsibility.

Her other tours at sea include assistant operations officer aboard the training aircraft carrier, USS Lexington (AVT 16), and as navigator aboard USS Enterprise (CVN 65).

Her shore tours include service on the Joint Staff as a political-military planner in the Asia-Pacific Division of the Strategic Plans and Policy Directorate (J-5); as executive assistant for the Assistant to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; as director of staff for Commander, Naval Forces Europe/Commander, 6th Fleet; as executive assistant for the Chief of Naval Operations; and as vice director, Joint Staff.

Tyson reported as deputy commander, U.S. Fleet Forces Command, in July 2013.

Tyson earned a Master of Arts in National Security and Strategic Affairs from the U.S. Naval War College in 1995.



## **Major General William D. Beydler Commander, II Marine Expeditionary Force**

Upon graduation from the United States Naval Academy in 1981, Maj. Gen. Beydler was commissioned into the United States Marine Corps and trained as a pilot.

He is a graduate of Navy Fighter Weapons School and the Marine Aviation and Weapons Tactics Squadron One Weapons and Tactics Instructor course. He commanded at the Fighter Attack Squadron, Marine Aircraft Group, Marine Aircraft Wing, and Joint Levels.



Beydler's staff assignments include Headquarters, United States European Command where he served as the Division Chief of Joint Training, Readiness and Exercises. He served in Headquarters 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing in July 2005 and deployed to the United States Central Command Combined Air Operations Center in Al Udeid, Qatar as the Marine Liaison Officer. At United States Joint Forces Command, Beydler served as the Director, Standing Joint Forces Headquarters and following a major reorganization and operationalization of the unit, he became the first commander of the United States Joint Forces Command, Joint Enabling Capabilities Command on Oct. 1, 2008. At Headquarters, United States Marine Corps, he served as the Director, Strategy and Plans Division within the Plans, Policies and Operations in 2010. Most recently, he served as Director, Strategy, Plans and Policy United States Central Command. Beydler took command of II Marine Expeditionary Force and United States Marine Corps Forces Africa on July 17, 2014.

Beydler attended the NATO Defense College in Rome, Italy in 2002.

He has accumulated approximately 4000 flight hours in tactical jet aircraft with over 3000 in the F/A-18. His personal decorations include the Defense Superior Service Medal with two Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters, the Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal with three Gold Stars, the Air Medal-Strike Flight with Numeral One, The Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal, and the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal with one Gold Star.

**Rear Admiral Frank A. Morneau  
Commander,  
Navy Expeditionary Combat Command**

Rear Adm. Morneau was appointed to the United States Naval Academy from the state of Nevada. He graduated and was commissioned in May 1983. His sea duty and operational assignments include: Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Mobile Unit Two; EOD Group Two Detachment Norfolk, Va.; and, EOD Mobile Unit Six. Morneau commanded EOD Mobile Unit Eight, in Sigonella, Sicily; EOD Group Two in Norfolk, Va.; and, Navy Expeditionary Combat Forces Command Central (Task Force 56) in



Bahrain. While in command, his units received numerous commendations for assigned missions during Operations Joint Forge, Determined Response, Enduring Freedom, and Iraqi Freedom in both European and Central Command.

His shore assignments include: Naval School Explosive Ordnance Disposal, Navy Personnel Command; Joint Staff Operations Directorate (J-3); Joint Improvised Explosive Device Defeat Organization; deputy director for Operations; Multi-National Force-Iraq and United States Forces-Iraq, Baghdad, Iraq; and, deputy director for Expeditionary Warfare on the Navy Staff.

Morneau is a 2006 graduate of the National War College and alumnus of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Seminar XXI Program.

Morneau is designated as an EOD warfare officer, deep sea diving officer, and naval parachutist. He is proud to wear two Naval Unit Commendations, two Meritorious Unit Citations and the Battle Efficiency Award for service with Explosive Ordnance Disposal Units. Morneau is an honorary master chief petty officer, initiated Sept. 16, 1996 and designated by the master chief petty officer of the Navy.

Morneau assumed his present duties as Commander, Navy Expeditionary Combat Command in July 2013.



**Major General Richard L. Simcock**  
**Deputy Commander,**  
**II Marine Expeditionary Force /**  
**Commander,**  
**2D Marine Expeditionary Brigade**

Maj. Gen. Simcock received his commission in May 1983 via the PLC Program. He is a graduate of The Basic School, Infantry Officer Course, Amphibious Warfare School, U.S. Marine Corps Command and Staff College, Armed Forces Staff College, and the Naval War College.



Simcock's assignments in the operating forces include: Platoon Commander, Executive Officer and Commanding Officer with Fox Company, 2d Battalion, 3d Marines; Assistant Operations Officer 3d Battalion, 5th Marines; Commanding Officer, India Company 3d Battalion, 5th Marines; Operations Officer, 25th Marine Regiment; Chief of Plans, J5, Special Operations Command Central; Future Operations Officer, G3, III MEF; Commanding Officer, 1st Battalion, 7th Marines; Commanding Officer, 6th Marine Regiment.

Other assignments include Series Officer and Company Commander Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego; Congressional Liaison Officer to the U.S. House of Representatives; Director of Tactical Training and Exercise Control Group, MAGTF Training Center.

As a General Officer his assignments include Legislative Assistant to the Commandant, Headquarters U.S. Marine Corps; Principal Director, Asia and Pacific Affairs, Office of the Secretary of Defense, and Deputy Commanding General, U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Pacific.

## **Brigadier General David W. Coffman** **Deputy Commander,** **Marine Forces Command /** **Commander,** **Marine Corps Forces South**



Brig. Gen. Coffman assumed duties as Deputy Commander, U.S. Marine Corps Forces Command in Norfolk, Va. on 21 June 2013. Concurrently, he serves as Commander, U.S. Marine Corps Forces South, where as the Marine service component commander he is responsible to the Commander U.S. Southern Command for all Marine activities across Central and South America and the Caribbean. He was born and raised in Eustis, Florida, graduated cum laude from Duke University, and was commissioned a Marine Second Lieutenant through the NROTC Program in May 1985. He completed flight school and was designated a Naval Aviator in May 1987.

As a CH-46 helicopter pilot, his operational flying tours include multiple deployments across PACOM and CENTCOM AORs with HMM-262 out of Hawaii, HMM-163 out of El Toro, California, and as Commanding Officer of HMM-161 stationed at MCAS Miramar California. Coffman commanded HMM-161 as a Lieutenant Colonel during their 2004 deployment to Iraq as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom II, where the squadron served as the primary Casualty Evacuation squadron for I MEF and was recognized by the Marine Corps Aviation Association as the Edward C. Dyer Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron of the Year for 2004.

Coffman commanded the 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit (13th MEU) as a Colonel at Camp Pendleton from January 2008 to October 2011. He led the “fighting thirteenth” through two full deployment cycles, culminating in seven month deployments aboard BOXER Amphibious Ready Group (BOX ARG) in 2009 and again in 2011. During these deployments, the BOX ARG/13th MEU team supported operations, exercises, and training across PACOM, CENTCOM, and AFRICOM areas of responsibility. Deployment highlights included extended counter-piracy operations in the Gulf of Aden and Somali Basin. The 2011 deployment featured extended national tasking in support of counter-terrorism operations, and CENTCOM Contingency Response activities during the turmoil of the “Arab Spring.”

Coffman has served on staff at multiple levels of command, including MEU, MAG, MEF, JTF, Combatant Command and the Joint Staff. At USCENTCOM from 1999 to 2002, he supported the development and execution of combined exercise programs with friendly nations on the Arabian Peninsula and supervised the USCENTCOM ARG-MEU Exercise Program. In 2003, he participated in Operation Iraqi Freedom I as MAG-16 Operations Officer. From 2006 to 2008 he served as Future Operations Officer for I MEF. From 2012 to 2013 he was assigned to the Operations Directorate of the Joint Staff at the Pentagon, where he served as a Deputy Director of Operations for the National Military Command Center.

Coffman graduated with honors from both The Basic School and the Amphibious Warfare School, earned a Master of Arts in National Security and Strategic Studies with highest distinction while attending the College of Naval Command and Staff at the Naval War College in Newport, Rhode Island, and completed a Top-Level-School-equivalent fellowship with the Rand Corporation in Santa Monica, California where he served as Commandant of the Marine Corps Fellow providing Marine expertise to the ongoing national defense related research conducted at Rand.

His awards include the Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit, two Bronze Stars for service in OIF, the Purple Heart for wounds received while flying a Casualty Evacuation mission in Iraq in 2004, multiple single mission and strike flight Air Medals, other personal decorations for meritorious service, and numerous campaign and service medals.

## **Rear Admiral Richard W. Butler** **Commander,** **Carrier Strike Group 4**

Rear Adm. Butler is currently serving as Commander, Carrier Strike Group 4. Graduating from the University of Kentucky in 1982, he entered Aviation Officer Candidate School in June 1983 and earned his wings in July 1985. He was assigned to Training Squadron (VT) 23 in Kingsville, Texas, as an instructor pilot before reporting to Naval Air Station Miramar for training in the F-14 Tomcat at Fighter Squadron (VF) 124.

Butler's operational tours include his first fleet assignment at VF-51 where he completed two Western Pacific-Indian Ocean deployments with Carrier Air Wing (CVW) 15 onboard USS Carl Vinson (CVN 70) and a department head tour with VF-2 where he deployed with CVW-2 onboard USS Constellation (CV 64). In May 2000, he reported to Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 25 in Lemoore, California, as executive officer and assumed command in September 2001. During this tour, he completed two deployments with CVW-14 onboard USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72). In October 2005, Butler reported to CVW-14 as the deputy commander and assumed command of the air wing on March 1, 2007. During this tour, he participated in three deployments onboard USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76) to the Western Pacific, Indian Ocean and Arabian Gulf in support of Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom.

Ashore, he served as a fleet replacement squadron instructor at VF-124 and the operations officer at the Navy Fighter Weapons School (TOPGUN). With the establishment of the Naval Strike and Air Warfare Center in May 1996, he served as the assistant TOPGUN department head until October 1997. From November 1997 to October 1999, Butler was assigned to the Strategy Division of the J5 Directorate at Headquarters, United States European Command in Stuttgart, Germany. In January 2003, he reported again to the Naval Strike and Air Warfare Center where he served as the TOPGUN department head and Strike department head. From May to August 2005, he served as deputy director, Combined Air Operations Center, Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar. He earned a master's degree in National Security Strategy at the National War College in Washington, D.C., and then served as chief of staff for Commander, Naval Air Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet, from July 2009 to August 2011. From September 2011 to June 2013 he served as the Head of Air Warfare Requirements for the Director, Air Warfare on the staff of the Deputy Chief of Naval Operations (Warfare Systems). He most recently served as commander, Joint Task Force-Guantanamo from July 2013 to July 2014.

He has accumulated over 5,650 flight hours and 1067 carrier-arrested landings, primarily in the F-14 Tomcat and FA-18 Hornet. His decorations include the Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Strike and Flight Air Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal, and Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, along with various campaign and service awards.





## **Rear Admiral Cynthia M. Thebaud Commander, Expeditionary Strike Group 2**

Rear Adm. Thebaud graduated with distinction from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1985 with a Bachelor of Science in Chemistry. She also holds a Master of Arts in Security Policy Studies from The George Washington University, is an honors graduate of the Naval War College, and is qualified joint specialty officer.

At sea, Thebaud has served in ships in both the Atlantic and Pacific fleets with deployed operations in the Western Pacific, Arabian Gulf, Indian Ocean, Horn of Africa, Central America, Mediterranean Sea, Black Sea, and Gulf of Guinea/West Africa areas of operation. Her tours include communications officer in USS Norton Sound (AVM 1), the Aegis and Vertical Launch Systems at-sea weapons test platform; boilers and machinery officer, deck division officer, navigator and navigation/administration department head in USS Prairie (AD 15); engineer officer in USS Platte (AO 186) and USS Hayler (DD 997); executive officer in USS Ticonderoga (CG 47) and commanding officer in USS Decatur (DDG 73). In Decatur, she deployed to the Middle East as part of the Navy's initial Expeditionary Strike Group (ESG 1) in support of Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom. She subsequently commanded Destroyer Squadron 60 where, in addition to serving as the 6th Fleet surface combatant force commander (CTF 65), she also commanded two multi-national African Partnership Station deployments focused on maritime security capacity-building in West and Central Africa. Most recently, on July 17, 2014 she assumed the duties of Commander, Expeditionary Strike Group 2.

Ashore, her assignments have included commander, Logistics Group Western Pacific and commander, Task Force 73; chief operating officer, Naval Education and Training Command; policy branch chief (N512) on the Chief of Naval Operations staff; director, Division of Professional Development at the U.S. Naval Academy; chief, Southeast Asia Division in the Joint Staff, Strategic Plans and Policy Directorate (J-5); Taiwan desk officer in the Joint Staff (J-5); executive assistant/flag secretary to commander, U.S. Naval Surface Force Pacific; Surface Warfare Junior Officer detailee; U.S. Naval Academy company officer; Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps instructor at George Washington University; and a joint staff internship in J-5/Policy Division.

Thebaud's decorations include the Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit (2 awards), Meritorious Service Medal (3 awards), Joint Service Commendation Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal (5 awards), Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (2 awards) and various unit citations and campaign medals.



# **BOLD ALLIGATOR**

## **History and Background**

### **Initial CMC Guidance**

The BOLD ALLIGATOR series started with the Commandant of the Marine Corps (CMC) and Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) initial guidance dating back to 2008. In July of 2008 the CMC called for a “revitalization of our amphibious competency ... initial aiming point for regaining our amphibious forcible entry capabilities is training to ESG-MEB combat element amphibious assault requirements.” A CMC message from 2008 further stated, “I am directing that we conduct a series of workshops...and the intent of this initial series is to achieve the staff proficiency required to robustly exercise simulation-supported and real-world ESG-MEB CE planning and execution.”

### **Initial CNO Guidance**

The CNO followed in 2009 with the guidance: “Our operations and procurement plans address the capabilities of both our Navy and Marine Corps. Marine Corps roots are at sea. Navy ships underpin expeditionary operations, thus our procurement resources are intertwined. We must integrate warfighting capabilities with the Marine Corps to meet the objectives of the Maritime Strategy and Naval Operations Concept. Effective integration must include Navy and Marine Corps consensus on operational matters and resource allocation.”

### **Common USN/USMC Goals**

The focus of the BOLD ALLIGATOR exercise is based on the common goal of the Navy and Marine Corps leadership to revitalize, refine, and strengthen core amphibious competencies, which are critical to maritime power projection and are a cost-effective option for a wide range of military operations (ROMO).

### **Flexibility & Utility of Amphibious Forces**

History has shown that the capabilities that allow the amphibious force to conduct a forced entry landing against an opposing military force are the same capabilities that make it the force of choice for crisis response and building coalition partnerships.

### **Crawl/Walk/Run Approach**

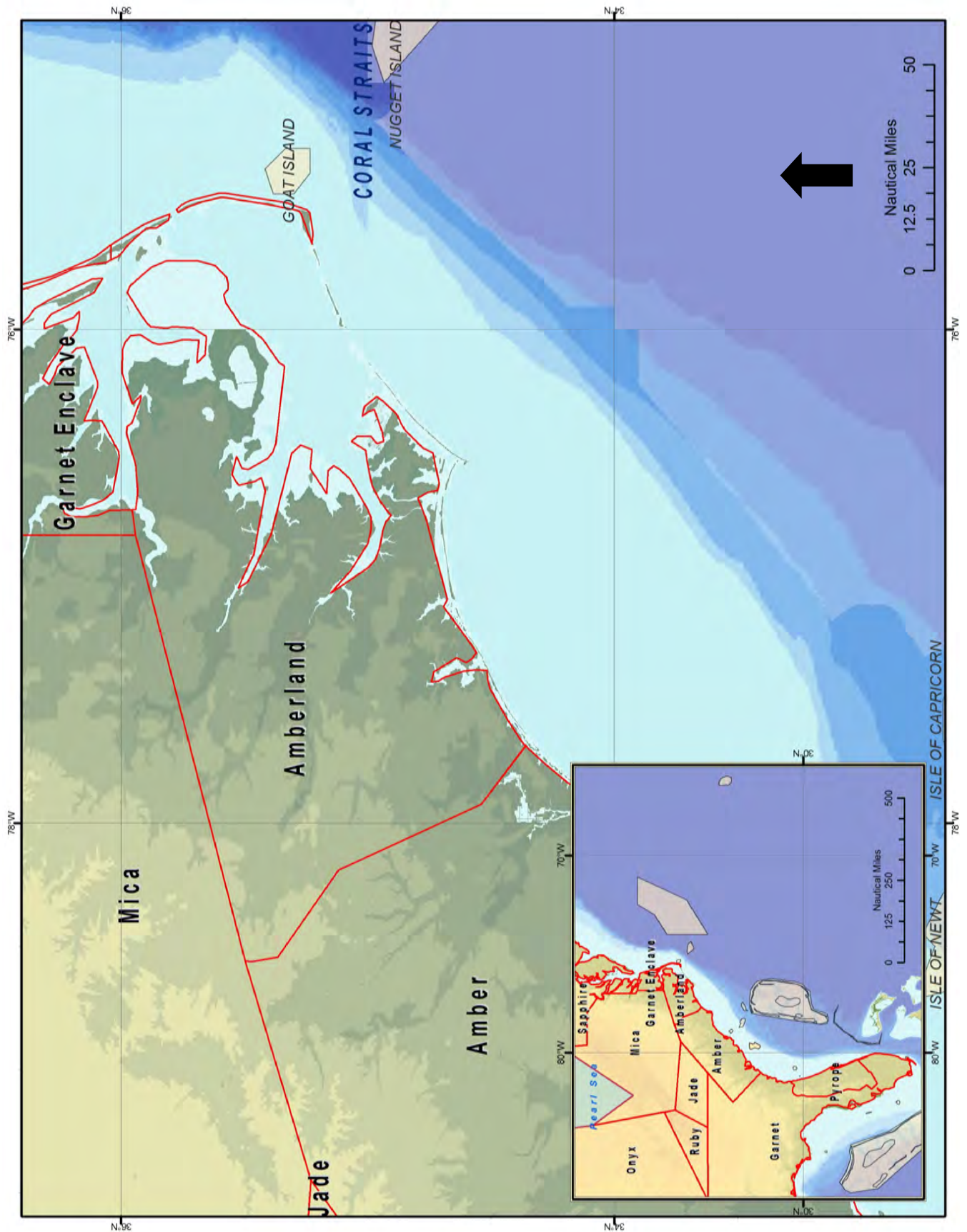
Several planning and academic events in 2009 and 2010 culminated in BOLD ALLIGATOR 2011, a simulated ESG-MEB sized event conducted in December of 2010.

- BOLD ALLIGATOR 2011 - a synthetic exercise focused on an opposed MEB-sized amphibious assault conducted within a hostile operational environment while simultaneously conducting non-combatant evacuation operations (NEO).
- BOLD ALLIGATOR 2012 - a combination synthetic and live exercise focused on an opposed MEB-sized amphibious assault conducted within a hostile operational environment.
- BOLD ALLIGATOR 2013 - a synthetic exercise that showcased the single naval battle construct— a wholly integrated air, land, sea and cyberspace approach to conducting amphibious operations.

### **Annual Exercise Commitment**

USFFC and MARFORCOM have agreed to conduct an exercise each year, alternating between synthetic and live in order to concentrate on the more complex issues, refresh the practical and mechanical aspects of planning and conducting amphibious operations as well as refine what we learn and develop from these invaluable experiences.

# Exercise Area of Operations (The Treasure Coast)





# **BOLD ALLIGATOR 2014**

## **Road to Crisis/Scenario Overview**

### **EXERCISE EXERCISE EXERCISE**

The Treasure Coast continues to be a region in violent flux with progressive, pro-western governments struggling against powerful traditionalist religious and political elements. Since early 2011, relations between emerging democracies of Amber, Amberland, Amethyst Island, Coral, Pyrope, Mica and the U.S. continued to improve while relations with Garnet have continued to deteriorate.

Piracy and armed robbery at sea has increased dramatically in the Treasure Coast Region (TCR) over the last six months. Furthermore, pirate attacks in the TCR have also become more sophisticated and daring, and have expanded in their geographic scope. The attacks pose a threat to the prompt, safe and effective delivery of humanitarian aid to Amber, Amberland and Pyrope.

Garnetian supported terror groups have committed acts of violence throughout the region, but particularly in Amber and Amberland. The U.S., NATO and our allied and partner nations have condemned the acts of violence and harsh treatment of refugees by Garnetian sponsored groups such as Pharm in Amber (PIA), Ji'stern Militia (JM), Rocky Mountain Resistance (RMR), and the Onyx Reformation Group (ORG).

Disregarding international condemnation of the violent acts committed by Garnet sponsored terror groups, Garnetian armed forces have conducted special operations force incursions and air space violations against Amber. As a response, the international community has called for an embargo against Garnet.

Acts of violence by Garnetian sponsored groups against Amberland have also increased dramatically. The Prime Minister of Amberland has directly sought military assistance in controlling the situation, as the acts of violence against refugees and displaced persons by Garnetian sponsored groups has grown beyond the government of Amberland's capability to stop.

Commander, U.S. Eastern Command (COMUSEASTCOM) has been authorized to begin planning for the conduct of military operations throughout the TCR. The area of operations includes the land, air, sea, and cyber space of Amber, Amberland, Amethyst Island, Coral, Mica, Pyrope, Topaz, and Garnet to include North Garnet.

When directed by the U.S. Secretary of Defense, COMUSEASTCOM, as the coalition Combined Force Commander (CFC), will conduct military operations to: deter insurgent aggression and destabilizing actions; maintain freedom of navigation in the international sea and air lines of communication; support humanitarian efforts in Amberland; and will be prepared to execute these missions across the TCR. On order, USEASTCOM will counter the efforts of insurgent/terrorist/criminal organizations and take appropriate measures to prevent further aggression to ensure the sovereignty and stability of Treasure Coast nations.



# BOLD ALLIGATOR 2014

## Exercise Overview

### Revitalization of Amphibious Skillsets

Exercise BOLD ALLIGATOR represents the Navy and Marine Corps revitalization of the fundamentals of amphibious operations, strengthening our traditional roles as “warfighters from the sea.” BA14 will focus on providing crisis response options from the sea and across the ROMO within an uncertain environment.

### Exercise Objectives

Exercise Objectives are a continuation & progression of BOLD ALLIGATOR 2011, which was a synthetic exercise conducted in December 2010. BOLD ALLIGATOR 2012, conducted in February 2012, was a live and synthetic scenario-driven simulation supported exercise designed to train Expeditionary Strike Group (ESG) 2 and 2d Marine Expeditionary Battalion (MEB) staffs to plan, coordinate and execute a MEB-sized amphibious assault from a seabase in a medium land and maritime threat environment to improve naval amphibious core competency. BOLD ALLIGATOR 2013 was a synthetic exercise conducted in April 2013, continuing lessons learned from the previous exercises while showcasing the single naval battle construct.

### Strategic Objectives

- *Potential adversaries perceive large-scale amphibious landings as a credible threat*
- *Allies are reassured that we are capable and willing to execute large-scale amphibious operations to support them*
- *Demonstrate to Combatant Commanders the capability and value of the full range of amphibious operations*
- *Demonstrate to the American people the value of amphibious forces*
- *Continue to build cooperation between USN, USMC, and partner and ally nations across the ROMO*

### Operational Objectives

- *Continue to build and maintain operational capabilities of the amphibious force*
- *Exercise existing amphibious doctrine and make improvements across the doctrine, organization, training, materiel, leadership and education, personnel and facilities (DOTMLPF) spectrum*
- *Provide a test bed for new concepts in Command and Control (C2), training/techniques/procedures, and equipment/technology*
- *Build and maintain the ability to combine aircraft carrier and large-deck amphibious class ship operations*

### Tactical Objectives

- *Build and maintain ESG-2 and 2d MEB capability to plan, deploy, and command and control forces effectively in large-scale amphibious operations*
- *Build and maintain habitual relationships between ESG-2 and 2d MEB*
- *Build and maintain ability of U.S. amphibious forces to execute amphibious operations with partners and allies*
- *Improve baseline amphibious warfare expertise*

### Complex Scenario

The scenario for BOLD ALLIGATOR 2014 will present complex afloat and ashore problem sets for the Navy/Marine Corps team based upon potential near-term challenges. BA14 takes place in the “Treasure Coast” scenario which is used by Commander, Carrier Strike Group (CSG) 4 training events. A benefit to using the same scenario across multiple training events and certifications is that money, time, wear and tear on vital resources is conserved.

### Focus areas include:

- C2 relationships throughout all phases of amphibious operations
- Load planning & force embarkation
- Force employment
- Combined Blue/Green/Coalition Combined Forces Maritime Component Command (CFMCC) staff
- Strategic level engagement
- Naval staff integration

# MEU/PHIBRON Organization

## MARINE EXPEDITIONARY UNIT (MEU)

The MEU, Commanded by a Marine Colonel, is the smallest standing Marine Air/Ground Task Force (MAGTF) and is comprised of about 2,200 Marines and Sailors. The MEU's major elements are the Command Element (CE), the Ground Combat Element (GCE), the Aviation Combat Element (ACE), and the Logistics Combat Element (LCE).

### **Command Element (CE)**

The CE is comprised of the commanding officer and supporting staff -- about 200 Marines and Sailors. It provides the command and coordination essential for effective planning and execution of operations and synchronizes the actions of each element within the MEU.

### **Ground Combat Element (GCE)**

The GCE is comprised of about 1,200, and is built around an infantry battalion that provides the over-land combat power for the MEU. Assets inherent within the standard infantry battalion include medium and heavy machine guns, mortars, combined anti-armor teams (CAAT) and scout snipers. While assigned to the MEU, the unit, designated 'Battalion Landing Team', is reinforced with light armored reconnaissance vehicles (LAV), tanks, artillery, combat engineers and assault amphibian vehicles (AAV).

### **Aviation Combat Element (ACE)**

The ACE is a composite squadron that provides the MEU medium to heavy lift capability, assault support and close air support (CAS). Although the aviation element carries the name of the Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron (VMM reinforced) assigned to the MEU, its assets include MV-22B Osprey medium lift aircraft, CH-53E Super Stallion heavy lift helicopters, AH-1Z Viper helicopter gunships, UH-1Y Venom utility/attack helicopters and AV-8B Harrier ground attack jets. With a force strength of approximately 500 personnel, the ACE includes air traffic control, aircraft maintenance/support and aviation logistics/supply capabilities.

### **Logistics Combat Element (LCE)**

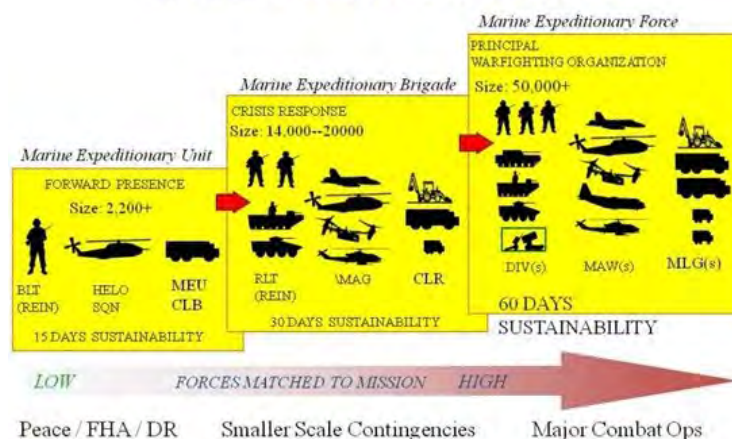
About 300 Marines and Sailors of the LCE provide combat support such as supply, maintenance, transportation, explosive ordnance disposal, military police, water production and distribution, engineering, medical and dental services, fuel storage and distribution, and other services to the deployed MEU. The LCE gives the MEU the ability to support itself for 15 days in austere expeditionary environments.

## AMPHIBIOUS SQUADRON (PHIBRON)

Marines and Sailors of the MEU are embarked aboard three amphibious ships, designated as an Amphibious Squadron (PHIBRON) commanded by a Navy Captain, who bears the title of Commodore. Joined together, the MEU and PHIBRON are designated as an Amphibious Ready Group (ARG). Together, with its Navy brethren the MEU serves as the nation's forward deployed, quick response team, capable of accomplishing numerous missions around the globe.

The size and composition of the MEU makes it well suited for amphibious operations; security operations; non-combatant evacuation operations (NEO) or civilians threatened by or suffering from violence; and service as mobile training teams. The MEU is an expeditionary force in nature, able to operate in foreign lands without U.S. bases and facilities. It is naval in character, useful in conventional operations in the air and ashore, and is able to operate with U.S. fleets around the world. The MEU's combined arms team bears substantial force and is capable of a high degree of tactical mobility while delivering significant, sustained firepower within an objective area.

## MAGTF Force Structures





# **Special Purpose MAGTF & Navy Expeditionary Forces**

## **Special Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force (SPMAGTF)**

SPMAGTFs will assume a greater role in crisis response and generate greater capacity for forward presence in more locations. Based on Geographic Combatant Commander (GCC) requirements, these organizations are tailored appropriately to conduct security cooperation activities with partner nations in order to develop interoperability, facilitate access, build defense and security relationships, gain regional understanding, and position for immediate response to episodic crises.

SPMAGTF-CR (Crisis Response) is postured to respond to a broad ROMO in assigned regions, including: U.S. Embassy reinforcement, fixed-site security, non-combatant evacuation operations (NEO), foreign humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations (FHA/DR), tactical recovery of aircraft and personnel (TRAP), theater security cooperation (TSC), and other missions as directed. Additionally, SPMAGTF-CR can serve as the lead element or the coordination node for a larger joint/combined element. SPMAGTF-CR also conducts military-to-military training exercises throughout their areas of responsibility. Working with partner nations promotes regional stability. These partnerships are at the core of dealing with regional issues and keeping peace in the region.

## **Navy Expeditionary Forces (NEF)**

Navy Expeditionary Forces operate forward around the globe today supporting the fleets in every theatre. Navy Expeditionary Combat Command (NECC) brings together a collection of these long-standing forces whose genesis was in the requirements of the naval campaigns of World War II. NEF exist first and foremost to support the fleet's warfighting operations, but is also ideal to support crisis response operations. NECC's Adaptive Force Packages (AFP) are scalable in size and scope, task-oriented consistent with supported-commander requirements, expeditionary and self-sustaining. AFPs provide an effective and efficient organization that brings to bear the right capabilities needed by a supported commander.

NEF assets for Bold Alligator 2014 include Explosive Ordnance Disposal Group 2, Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 5, Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 1, Coastal Riverine Squadron 4, Navy Cargo Handling Battalion 11, Intelligence Exploitation Team, Combat Camera, and an Forward Deployed Preventive Medicine Unit (FDPMU).



*U.S. Marines assigned to Battalion Landing Team, 1st Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment, 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit (24th MEU) set up communications (above) and escort exercise role players (below) during a non-combatant evacuation operation (NEO) in Bold Alligator 2012.*



# Exercise Participants

## Coalition Ships/Forces



Brazil



1 x Platoon



Canada



1 x Company  
1 x Battalion HQ



Denmark



HDMS Niels Juel (F 363)



Mexico



ARM Baja California (PO 162)  
1 x Platoon



Netherlands



HNLMS Johan de Witt (L-801)  
1 x Marine Combat Group  
1 x EOD/VSW/Riverine Group  
1 x SOF Company  
1 x CTF Staff



Norway



1 x Platoon  
1 x Diving Team



Peru



BAP Islay (SS 35)



Spain



1 x Company



United Kingdom



1 x Royal Marine Company



United States



USS Kearsarge (LHD 3) 7 x CTF Staffs  
USS Iwo Jima (LHD 7) 1 x ESG  
USS San Antonio (LPD 17) 1 x MEB  
USS Arlington (LPD 24) 2 x SPMAGTF  
USS Fort McHenry (LSD 43) 1 x SOF Company  
USS Oak Hill (LSD 51) 1 x NEF  
USS Hue City (CG 66)  
USS Laboon (DDG 58)  
USS Winston Churchill (DDG 81)  
USS Farragut (DDG 99)  
USS Newport News (SSN 750)  
USNS John Lenthall (TAO 189)  
USNS Medgar Evers (T-AKE 13)  
USNS Apache (T-ATF 172)  
USNS Choctaw County (JHSV 2)

## Augments & Observers



Australia



Italy



Belgium



Japan



Chile



Sweden



France



Turkey



Germany



Strike Force NATO

19 Countries Participating  
17 Ships  
2 Submarines



## **AMPHIBIOUS ASSAULT SHIPS - LHA/LHD**

Amphibious Assault Ships are the largest of all amphibious warfare ships. Often called “big deck amphibs,” these small aircraft carriers can launch and recover tactical strike jet aircraft (Vertical/Short Take-Off and Landing (V/STOL), Short Take-Off Vertical Landing (STOVL), Vertical Take-Off and Landing (VTOL) aircraft), tilt-rotor and rotary wing (helicopter) aircraft. Amphibious Assault Ships usually feature a well deck to support use of Landing Craft, Air Cushioned (LCAC) and other watercraft.

**U.S. Navy Fact File:** [http://www.navy.mil/navydata/fact\\_display.asp?cid=4200&tid=400&ct=4](http://www.navy.mil/navydata/fact_display.asp?cid=4200&tid=400&ct=4)



*USS Iwo Jima (LHD 7)*



*USS Kearsarge (LHD 3)*

## **AMPHIBIOUS TRANSPORT DOCK - LPD**

### **Description**

Amphibious transport dock ships are warships that embark, transport, and land elements of a landing force for a variety of expeditionary warfare missions. They feature a well deck for amphibious vehicles and flight deck for tiltrotor and rotary wing aircraft. These ships support amphibious assault, special operations or expeditionary warfare missions and can serve as secondary aviation platforms for amphibious ready groups.

**U.S Navy Fact File:** [http://www.navy.mil/navydata/fact\\_display.asp?cid=4200&tid=600&ct=4](http://www.navy.mil/navydata/fact_display.asp?cid=4200&tid=600&ct=4)



*Well deck operations aboard USS San Antonio (LPD 17)*



*USS Arlington (LPD 21)*



## **DOCK LANDING SHIP - LSD**

### **Description**

Dock Landing Ships support amphibious operations including landings via Landing Craft Air Cushion (LCAC), conventional landing craft and helicopters, onto hostile shores.

**U.S. Navy Fact File:** [http://www.navy.mil/navydata/fact\\_display.asp?cid=4200&tid=1000&ct=4](http://www.navy.mil/navydata/fact_display.asp?cid=4200&tid=1000&ct=4)



*USS Fort. McHenry (LSD 43)*



*USS Oak Hill (LSD 51)*

### **LANDING CRAFT, AIR CUSHION - LCAC**

Air cushioned vehicle for transporting, ship-to-shore and across the beach, personnel, weapons, equipment, and cargo of the assault elements of the Marine Air-Ground Task Force.

**U.S. Navy Fact File:** [http://www.navy.mil/navydata/fact\\_display.asp?cid=4200&tid=1500&ct=4](http://www.navy.mil/navydata/fact_display.asp?cid=4200&tid=1500&ct=4)



### **LANDING CRAFT, MECHANIZED AND UTILITY - LCM/LCU**

Landing craft are used by amphibious forces to transport equipment and troops to the shore. Landing craft are also used to support civilian humanitarian/maritime operations.

**U.S. Navy Fact File:** [http://www.navy.mil/navydata/fact\\_display.asp?cid=4200&tid=1600&ct=4](http://www.navy.mil/navydata/fact_display.asp?cid=4200&tid=1600&ct=4)

### **AMPHIBIOUS ASSAULT VEHICLE - AAV-7A1**

Amphibious vehicle designed to assault any shoreline from the well decks of Navy assault ships. AAVs are highly mobile, tracked vehicles that transport Marines and cargo to and through hostile territory.

#### **Features**

- All-welded aluminum hull protects crew from small arms fire
- Eight smoke grenade launchers
- Turret armed with .50 cal. machine gun and 40mm grenade launcher
- Can be outfitted with Mine Clearance Line Charges
- Operates at speeds of 45mph on land; 8-10 knots in water
- Can carry 21 combat-loaded Marines and 3 crewmembers
- Can transport 10,000 pounds of cargo
- Can fire on land and water
- Enough fuel to drive 300 miles inland







*USS Hue City (CG 66)*

## **CRUISERS - CG**

Guided-missile cruisers are multi-role warships. They can launch Tomahawk cruise missiles to strike strategic or tactical targets, or fire long-range antiaircraft for defense against aircraft or antiship missiles. Their helicopters and sonar systems allow them to perform antisubmarine missions. Cruisers are designed to be elements of carrier battle groups, amphibious assault groups, as well as performing missions such as interdiction or escort.

**U.S. Navy Fact File:** [http://www.navy.mil/navydata/fact\\_display.asp?cid=4200&tid=800&ct=4](http://www.navy.mil/navydata/fact_display.asp?cid=4200&tid=800&ct=4)

## **SUBMARINES - SSN**

Attack submarines are designed to seek and destroy enemy submarines and surface ships; project power ashore with Tomahawk cruise missiles and Special Operation Forces (SOF); carry out Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (ISR) missions; support battle group operations; and engage in mine warfare.



*USS Newport News (SSN 750)*

**U.S. Navy Fact File:** [http://www.navy.mil/navydata/fact\\_display.asp?cid=4100&tid=100&ct=4](http://www.navy.mil/navydata/fact_display.asp?cid=4100&tid=100&ct=4)

## **DESTROYERS - DDG**

Guided Missile Destroyers are warships that provide multi-mission offensive and defensive capabilities. They can launch Tomahawk cruise missiles to strike strategic or tactical targets, or fire long-range antiaircraft for defense against aircraft or antiship missiles. Their helicopters and sonar systems allow them to perform antisubmarine missions. Destroyers can operate independently or as part of carrier strike groups, surface action groups, amphibious ready groups, and underway replenishment groups.

**U.S. Navy Fact File:** [http://www.navy.mil/navydata/fact\\_display.asp?cid=4200&tid=900&ct=4](http://www.navy.mil/navydata/fact_display.asp?cid=4200&tid=900&ct=4)



*USS Laboon (DDG 58)*



*USS Winston S Churchill (DDG 81)*



*USS Farragut (DDG 99)*



# Military Sealift Command



*USNS Medgar Evers (T-AKE 13) steams along side  
Royal Netherlands Navy Frigate HNLMS De Ruyter*

## DRY CARGO/AMMUNITION SHIPS - T-AKE

The dry cargo/ammunition ships are operated by the Navy's Military Sealift Command. In this class of 14 ships, 11 provide multi-product combat logistics support to the Navy fleet and three are slated to preposition U.S. Marine Corps Cargo at sea as part of the Maritime Prepositioning Force.

**U.S. Navy Fact File:** <http://www.msc.navy.mil/inventory/ships.asp?ship=116&type=DryCargoAmmunitionShip>

## FLEET REPLENISHMENT OILERS - T-AO

Fourteen fleet replenishment oilers are operated by Military Sealift Command and provide underway replenishment of fuel to U.S. Navy ships at sea and jet fuel for aircraft assigned to aircraft carriers. Three of the newest MSC underway replenishment oilers have double hulls.

**U.S. Navy Fact File:** [http://www.navy.mil/navydata/fact\\_display.asp?cid=4400&tid=600&ct=4](http://www.navy.mil/navydata/fact_display.asp?cid=4400&tid=600&ct=4)



*USNS John Lenthall (T-AO 189)*



*USNS Choctaw County (JHSV 2)*

## JOINT HIGH SPEED VESSEL - JHSV

The Joint High Speed Vessel (JHSV) is a shallow draft, all aluminum, commercial-based Catamaran capable of intra-theater personnel and cargo lift providing combatant commanders high-speed sealift mobility with inherent cargo handling capability and agility to achieve positional advantage over operational distances.

**U.S. Navy Fact File:** [http://www.navy.mil/navydata/fact\\_display.asp?cid=4200&tid=1400&ct=4](http://www.navy.mil/navydata/fact_display.asp?cid=4200&tid=1400&ct=4)

## FLEET OCEAN TUGS - T-ATF

Four ocean-going tugs are operated by Military Sealift Command and provide the U.S. Navy with towing service, and when augmented by Navy divers, assist in the recovery of downed aircraft and ships.

**U.S. Navy Fact File:** [http://www.navy.mil/navydata/fact\\_display.asp?cid=4625&tid=100&ct=4](http://www.navy.mil/navydata/fact_display.asp?cid=4625&tid=100&ct=4)



*USNS Apache (T-ATF 172)*

**U.S. COAST GUARD**  
**PORT SECURITY UNITS - PSU**

The Coast Guard's role in BA 14 is to test interoperability between the Coast Guard Port Security Unit (PSU) with Navy and Marine Corps units. U.S. Coast Guard's objective is to physically deploy the PSU to integrate within the Joint command and control structure and provide support to Naval Expeditionary Forces. This is accomplished by conducting harbor and security zone patrols, supporting/ conducting point defense of high value assets, conduct general law enforcement operations, provide support/evacuation of noncombatant personnel in areas of civil or international crisis, and conduct intelligence collection.



*USCG PSU 307*

PSUs are rapid deployable units that conduct sustained OCONUS port security in support of regional combatant commands. PSUs provide waterborne and shore-side protection to key assets such as pier areas, high value vessels, and harbor entrances.

**COALITION WARSHIPS**



*HNLMS Johan de Witt (L801, Netherlands)*



## COALITION WARSHIPS



*HDMS Niels Juel (F363, Denmark)*



*BAP Islay (SS 35, Peru)*



*ARM Baja California (PO 162, Mexico)*





*Two members of U.S. Coast Guard Port Security Unit 308 Security Division scout the area around Forward Operating Base Gallant during Bold Alligator 2012.*



*LEFT: A U.S. Marine assigned to Battalion Landing Team, 1st Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment, 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit stands a security watch for an MV-22 Osprey of VMM-261 during Bold Alligator 2012.*

*BELOW: A Humvee disembarks a U.S. Navy Landing Craft Air Cushion on the shore of Onslow Beach, Camp Lejeune, N.C., Feb. 9, 2012*







*ABOVE: U.S. Marine Corps Sgt. Marc Alwes with 3rd Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment teaches British Royal Marines with 42 Commando how to use, assemble and maintain the .50 caliber heavy machine gun during Bold Alligator 2012.*

*RIGHT: Master Cpl. J.J. Tremblay, a soldier for C Company, 3rd Royal, 22nd Regiment ready to board a U.S. Marine Corps MV-22 Osprey.*





## **MV-22 OSPREY**

The MV-22 Osprey is a multi-engine, dual piloted, self-deployable, medium lift, vertical takeoff and landing (VTOL) tilt-rotor aircraft designed for combat, combat support, combat service support, and Special Operations missions worldwide. The MV-22 combines the functionality of a helicopter with the long-range, high-speed cruise performance of a turboprop aircraft. It is built with composite materials, has fly-by-wire light controls and digital cockpits.

### **Primary Function**

Assault transport of troops, equipment, and supplies from assault ships.

### **Mission**

Marine Corps Assault Support

### **Armament**

1 x 7.62mm M240 MMG or .50 caliber ramp mounted M2 HMG

1x 7.62mm belly mounted GAU-17

Dimensions (Spread): 57'4" x 84'7" x 22'7"

Dimensions (Folded): 63' x 18'5" x 8'3"

Vertical Takeoff/Landing (VTOL) Weight: 52,600 lbs.

Short Takeoff/Landing (STOL) Weight: 57,000 lbs.

Self-Deploy (STO) Weight: 60,500 lbs.

Mission Range: Amphibious Pre-Assault Raid 200 nm

Amphibious External Lift: 10,000 lb. load 50 nm

Land Assault External Lift: 50 nm

Troop Seating: 24 Combat Loaded Marines

Self-Deployment: 2100 nm

Cruise Airspeed: 240 kts.

Aerial Refueling Capable and Shipboard Compatible: Yes

Initial Operational Capability: 2007

Manufacturer: Bell Boeing



## **AV-8B HARRIER II**

The AV-8B Harrier II Plus is a multi-mission, short-takeoff vertical landing (STOVL) tactical strike aircraft. Because of its short-to-vertical takeoff and landing characteristics, it possesses basing flexibility that is unmatched by other fixed-wing aircraft. Furthermore, it supports a broad selection of air-to-air and air-to-surface weapon system and third-generation technologies that address diverse tactical scenarios.

### **Primary Function**

Attack and destroy surface targets under day and night visual conditions

### **Mission**

Close Air Support, Combat Air Patrol

### **Armament**

Seven external store stations, comprising six wing stations for AIM-9 Sidewinder and an assortment of air-to-ground ordnance. A GAU-12.25mm six-barrel gun pod can be mounted on the centerline and has a 300 round capacity with a lead computing optical sight system (LCOSS) gun sight.

Dimensions: 30'4" x 46'4" x 11'8"

Vertical Takeoff/Landing (VTOL) Weight: 18,900 lbs.

Short Takeoff/Landing (STOL) Weight: 31,000 lbs.

Self-Deploy (STO) Weight: 60,500 lbs.

Ferry Range: 2100 nm

Combat Radius: 163 nm (CAS), 454 nm (Interdiction)

Cruise Airspeed: Subsonic

Crew Size: 1

Aerial Refueling Capable and Shipboard Compatible: Yes

Initial Operational Capability: 1985

Manufacturer: McDonnell Douglas





## **CH-53E SUPER STALLION**

The CH-53E Super Stallion is designed for the transportation of equipment, supplies and personnel during the assault phase of an amphibious operation and subsequent operations ashore. Capable of both internal and external transport of supplies, the CH-53E can operate in adverse weather conditions both night and day.

### **Primary Function**

Transportation of heavy equipment and supplies during the ship-to-shore movement of an amphibious assault and during subsequent operations ashore.

### **Mission**

Marine Corps Assault Support

### **Armament**

Two GAU-21/A .50 caliber machineguns

Dimensions: 99'5" x 79' (rotor diameter) x 28'4"

Range: 621 nm (indefinite with refueling)

Internal Load: 69,750 lbs.

External Load: 73,500 lbs.

Troop Seating: 37 Combat Loaded Marines

Cruise Airspeed: 150 kts.

Aerial Refueling Capable and Shipboard Compatible: Yes

Initial Operational Capability: 1981

Manufacturer: Sikorsky Aircraft





*Lance Cpl. Calvin Smith Jr., a combat cargo Marine aboard the USS Wasp, prepares for the arrival of a Landing Air Craft Air Cushion with Assault Craft Unit 4 during Bold Alligator 2012.*



*Marines with 2nd Amphibious Assault Battalion charge into the water while transiting to the USS Wasp.*



